

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2025

9:30 a.m.



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✚ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: "Come, All You People"

WOV 717

- 1 Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.
- 2 Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.
- 3 Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**
³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do
not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.
⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They

had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Love”

There is love, there is love
There is love, there is love
When our hope is hard to find
And our faith is in decline
We need a cause to stand behind, love

We all want the way it feels
Time it comes and time it steals
What remains, what is real, love

There is love, there is forgiveness
There is love in times of need
When life is cold there is a promise
You would never go without
There is love, there is love

It heals the sick, comforts the weak
Breaks the proud, raises the meek
In this life no guarantees but there is love

There is love, there is forgiveness
There is love in times of need
When life is cold there is a promise
You will never go without
There is love, there is love
There is love, there is love

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe In the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with... God of Grace.

*The congregation responds: **hear our prayer.***

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

The Offering (Please leave your offering on our website:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray...

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

Sacrament

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Prayer After Communion

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

Sending/Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: “Love the Lord”


- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength
Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength</p> <p>2 With all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, with all your strength
Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength</p> | <p>3 I will serve the Lord with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind
And with all my strength
I will serve the Lord with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind
And with all my strength</p> <p>4 With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, with all my strength
I will serve the Lord with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind
And with all my strength</p> |
|---|--|

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

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<p>OUR MISSION - FAITHFUL IN THE WORD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">+ To gather as God’s people and nurture one another+ To know the Word of God+ To grow in faith, love, and service+ To go into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ	
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SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen
Music Director	Michael Dettra
Worship Assistant	Gail Oines
Fellowship Time	Open

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by the Ward family in honor of Julianna’s birthday.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY’S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

In-person services were cancelled due to weather; a single online service was held at 9:30 am.

CONTACTING PASTOR MATT

If you need to speak with Pastor Matt when he is not in the office, particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency, please feel free to call his cell at 215-859-3778 or email him at pastor@adventrichboro.org.

If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

You are invited to a study of the Gospel of Matthew on Thursday nights via Zoom. Pastor will be leading the study, which utilizes the “The Jewish Annotated New Testament” as one of our resources to delve deep into Jesus’ times and to better understand this Gospel written to a Jewish-Christian audience.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82089110140>

Meeting ID: 820 8911 0140



COMMUNION REMINDER

The Worship and Music Committee would like to remind the congregation that those going forward to the altar for communion have a few options. There is gluten-free bread in the small clear glass bowl, and white grape juice for those who prefer. Just let the Pastor or assistant know your preference. Thank you.

DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS CHART

The 2025 Flower Chart to dedicate altar flowers each Sunday is on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$25 per bouquet, and you are welcome to take the flowers home following the late service. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

2025 MISSION SUPPORT

The 2025 Mission Support Chart is available for sign up on the table in the narthex. Mission Support Dedication donations benefit our sister church, Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Dedication donations are \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2025 Offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex for pickup. If you did not receive envelopes and would like to have them, please contact Cindy Frey or Tony Gryszka.

DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME



Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet to provide refreshments for Fellowship Time is available in the narthex on the refreshment table. Advent supplies hot beverages and paper products.

If you are looking for a way to assist with Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars. The hungry snackers will appreciate it!

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND
VOTE TO APPROVE THE NEW CONSTITUTION
Sunday, February 23, 10:00 AM**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 23, following the 9:00 am single worship service. Please plan to attend so that there is a quorum to be able to conduct the business of the Church.

The meeting will also include the first of two opportunities for the congregation to vote to approve the new Constitution. A second opportunity for the congregation to vote will take place on Sunday, March 23, at 10:00 am, after the single worship service at 9:00 am.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, please plan to attend via zoom.

While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 23, 2025 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 858 5726 3471 - <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85857263471>

Copies of the old and new Constitutions were emailed to the congregation in December and are also available as hard copies in the narthex. Please take the time to read both documents to prepare for the next step. Please contact the church office if you need assistance in obtaining these documents.

2025 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARDS – DUE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

For those who have not yet done so, please return your 2025 Stewardship Commitment card no later than Sunday, February 23. The cards will be blessed in worship on Sunday, March 2.

If you need a commitment card, please contact the church office by phone at 215-355-2529 or by email at adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.

DIRECTORY UPDATE FOR THE CONGREGATION – ACTION REQUIRED BY SUNDAY, MARCH 2

The church office is updating the directory for the Congregation and we need your help! Copies of the current directory are available in the narthex and were emailed to the congregation. Please review your information and either CONFIRM or UPDATE your information no later than Sunday, March 2. Confirmation or update of contact information can be changed directly on the hard copy in the narthex, emailed to the church office at adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com or called into the office at 215-355-2529. Thank you for your help in keeping our directory up-to-date!

NEW EVENT: EASTER EGG HUNT – SEEKING A LEADER AND HELPERS!

Advent is looking to host an Easter Egg Hunt but is in need of someone to lead the planning and execution of the event as well as individuals to assist. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Pastor Matt via the church office at 215-355-2529 or adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For January 2025		
	Rec'vd for Jan 2025	Budget for Jan 2025
General Fund	\$11,190.06	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,451	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$30	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$655	
Web Upgrade	\$0	
Total	\$13,326.06	\$20,640.00

HOW TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THE LOS ANGELES FIRES

We continue to pray for those affected by the devastating fires in Los Angeles. We also continue to pray for the first responders and those caring for the injured.

If you want to donate to help the individuals and families affected by the fires:

1. You can donate money through Advent Richboro.
 - Place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday, noting that the donation is earmarked for the LA fire victims.
 - Or you can donate online at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>.
2. You can donate through Lutheran World Relief at <https://lwr.org/>.

Thank you for extending God's love where it is so urgently needed.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

We are collecting can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities which help alleviate some financial burdens for families along their child's healthcare journey. Last year alone, they helped families save \$736 million in lodging and meal expenses.

Tabs can be placed in the marked containers in the narthex, on the shelf above the coat rack.

No cans, please – just tabs!

DRIVE-IN & DROP-OFF FOOD COLLECTION – WARMINSTER FOOD PANTRY

If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry and the church is not open, just drive into the parking lot and drop off the food inside the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

SUPPORT THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE

Please help support the website rebuild through a financial gift, which will defray the costs totaling \$14,535 (for the rebuild and web hosting for one year). To date, over \$9,700 has been donated. Thanks to all who have made and will be making a financial gift in support of the appeal. Checks can be made out to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church (memo line: Electronic Service Appeal).

CHURCH SECURITY

Please be mindful that all the doors of the church are locked and latched when you are leaving. The external doors do not always automatically latch when they swing shut.

- When leaving the church building, please **tug the door behind you** to check that it has latched.
- **If you possess a church key** and are the last key bearer to leave the church (i.e. Non-key bearing people may still be in the building), please check and lock the external doors upon leaving.

Thank you for your attentiveness.

**LEIDY MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY'S MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM
Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8 at Advent**

Daily Visitor Fees: \$5.00 for Friday, \$10.00 for Saturday

Saturday admission includes a silent auction, giveaways, & lunch

Saturday lectures:

- “Diving into Olivine,” by Chris Duerr
- “The Fascinating World of Diatoms,” by Bill Dailey

Vendors:

For both days: 6-foot table fee \$40.00, 1/2 table fee \$25.00

For more info: donmcalarnen@outlook.com Phone: 610- 584-1364

Make checks payable to: The Leidy Microscopical Society

Mail to: Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Road, East Norriton, PA 19403

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SPIRITUAL GIFTABILITIES INVENTORY

Sunday, February 16, 10:45 AM

For those who were not able to attend the Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 1, you have an opportunity following the 9:30 a.m. service to convene with Pastor Matt, who will guide you through the Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory. This inventory is meant to assist congregants in identifying and understanding their personal spiritual gifts and to identify the spiritual gifts of the congregation.

SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 23, 9:00 AM

Advent will have a single worship service at 9:00 am in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting and Constitution Approval Vote.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & NEW CONSTITUTION APPROVAL VOTE

Sunday, February 23, following the 9:00 AM Service

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 23. Two special congregational meetings will be held on February 23, 2025, and March 23, 2025, for the first and second voting opportunities, respectively, to approve the new Constitution.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARDS - DUE BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Advent will have a single worship service at 9:00 am in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting and Constitution Approval Vote.



THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 am Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry
- 10:45 am Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 5:30 pm Praise Team practice until 6:15 pm
- 6:15 pm Vocal Choir practice until 7:00 pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt - Gospel of Matthew

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00 am Single Worship Service - Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting
and 1st Vote on new Constitutional Approval